



# Hoosier Responder

JANUARY 2012

Volume 8, Issue 1

## IDHS PROVIDES K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Lillian Hardy, Indiana Department of Homeland Security Search and Rescue Training Manager, has trained thousands of individuals from various public and private organizations through the IDHS Search and Rescue K-9 Training Program. Her expertise in K-9 search and rescue has drawn interest from across the globe to learn how to properly train search dogs in a variety of techniques.

After the catastrophic earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan in April of 2011, officials in South Korea saw the need for cadaver search dogs to assist in the response effort. However, South Korean officials did not have the

infrastructure to train search and rescue dogs and contacted Hardy to assist in the creation of a K-9 Search and Rescue Training program. Just a short time after the earthquake and tsunami, Hardy travelled to Seoul, South Korea to begin the process of developing a program for local public safety officials.

South Korean military personnel, police officers, firefighters, and emergency management personnel looked to Hardy to provide the expertise and knowledge they would need to build and manage their own program based on the IDHS Mari [\(continued on page 3\)](#)

### In This Issue:

PREPARE FOR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS WINTER CONDITIONS	2
INDIANA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MEMORIAL TEAM SEEKING APPLICANTS	3
FEMA ANNOUNCES NEW ONLINE INITIATIVE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	4
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CERTIFICATIONS RECEIVE A FACELIFT	4
OFF-DUTY EMT AND INDIANA STATE TROOPERS SAVE LIFE	6
INDIANA EMS AGENCIES TARGETED FOR FRAUD	7

## From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott 2012 Great Central US ShakeOut Provides Opportunity for Businesses to Prepare

The inaugural Great Central United States ShakeOut in April of 2011 was a great success for Hoosiers with more than 600,000 registered participants in our state alone, and more than 3 million throughout the region. We hope that the 2012 ShakeOut, scheduled for February 7, will build on the success of last year by educating and preparing even more Hoosiers about the potential dangers of earthquakes in Indiana.

Scientists estimate a 25-40% probability of a damaging earthquake occurring in the central United States within the next 50 years. We know, due to geological factors, that

earthquakes in the central part of the nation travel much further without losing strength than comparable earthquakes on the west coast. An earthquake with a magnitude equal to the 1811 and 1812 New Madrid earthquakes could result in a large loss of life and billions of dollars in property damage. Because of this, citizens and communities need to prepare to physically and financially survive a damaging earthquake.

A key aspect of the ShakeOut is the integration of earthquake research and the lessons learned from social science research about why people get prepared for disasters. The

result is a "teachable moment" on par with having an actual earthquake (often followed by increased interest in getting ready for earthquakes). The ShakeOut creates the sense of urgency that is needed for people, organizations, and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved.



[\(Continued on page 2\)](#)

## PREPARE FOR DANGEROUS WINTER CONDITIONS BEFORE THEY STRIKE

Winter conditions in Indiana can often be dangerous and unpredictable. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security urges Hoosiers to prepare for potentially harsh weather this winter by preparing before the storm occurs.

“When it comes to getting ready for winter, personal responsibility is key,” said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. “Don’t wait until a few hours before a snow or ice storm to stock up on supplies—start preparing now. Once your family is ready for winter storms, check with any elderly neighbors, lower income families or families with young children that might need help obtaining extra blankets, warm clothes or other essentials to keep them warm and safe.”

IDHS and offers these tips for preparing your home for winter.

### Home Readiness

- Check your homeowner’s insurance policy to make sure coverage is adequate for the type of winter weather in your area. Learn what is excluded from the

policy.

- Remove dead tree branches. Ice and snow, combined with winter winds can cause limbs to snap and break and could do damage to your home.
- Clean gutters. Snow and ice can build up quickly, especially if your gutters are clogged with debris. When thawing begins, water from melting ice has nowhere to drain and can back up under your roof and eaves, causing water damage to walls and ceilings. Consider buying screens to keep your gutters debris-free.
- Make sure auxiliary heaters and fireplaces are adequately maintained and serviced. Many fires related to alternative heating sources are preventable through proper maintenance. Before installing a wood-burning stove, check with local fire officials about codes and proper installation techniques. Do not store kerosene in a non-approved



container or in your home and be sure to keep alternative heat sources from flammable materials (walls, curtains, etc.). For more information about using alternative heat sources safely, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

### Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Make sure that your emergency preparedness kit is complete, with fresh supplies.
- Along with your kit, keep extra blankets and warm clothes easily accessible in case you have to find them in a power outage.
- Stock up on extra food and water. After a winter storm you may be snowed in or without electricity for a few days.
- Remember to consider the needs of all family members, such as babies and older adults. Keep extra prescription medicines available in case you are snowed in. Don’t forget your pets!

For more winter preparedness information, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## 2012 GREAT CENTRAL US SHAKEOUT (continued)

In 2011, through the support of our partners at the Indiana Geological Survey and the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana led the states in registered participants. Our goal is to continue to lead the central United States in earthquake preparedness.

Just like any other natural disaster, earthquakes can strike at any time of the day and year, making it important to be prepared and understand how to react in any situation. We are focusing some of our efforts this year on preparing businesses. A powerful earthquake could not only cause a great deal of physical damage to a business, but also massive financial

harm. While mitigating any potential physical harm to individuals is the first priority, knowing how to quickly return to normal operations at a business is an essential part to any earthquake plan.

To promote business preparedness, we are using the Quake Smart program. This program consists of a list of steps that a business can take to prepare for an earthquake. Upon completion of these steps, the business will then receive a Quake Smart certificate. We hope that by issuing this certificate to businesses, citizens will realize how easy and important it is to prepare their homes

and businesses for earthquakes and other natural hazards.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security encourages all Hoosiers to visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov) to learn about how to prepare for the earthquake and register to participate in the 2012 Great Central United States ShakeOut at [www.shakeout.org/centralus/register](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/register). With your participation, we can continue to lead the region in earthquake preparedness participation and help make Indiana a safer place to live.

## IDHS PROVIDES K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(continued)

Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center at Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Indiana. The process of fully training a dog to perform search and rescue assistance takes from one to two years. Thus, the instruction provided by Hardy will have to be continued by Korean officials to ensure the dogs are properly trained.

“Training search and rescue dogs is not an overnight process,” said Hardy. “It takes time, and they need to be properly trained to ensure they can perform when called upon.”

The relationship between South Korean officials and Hardy did not begin after the earthquake; in 2008, a Korean firefighter spent five months at Camp Atterbury with Hardy learning the basics of maintaining a high-level K-9 training program. After his experience at the



training center, the Korean firefighter was able to return home and provide the justification for the implementation of a similar training center in South Korea with the support of the Korean Kennel Club.

“Indiana is extremely lucky to have a resource like the Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center, and knowledgeable individuals like Lillian Hardy to operate it,” said Joe Wainscott, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. “We have a world-class facility at Camp Atterbury and we are more than happy to share this resource to increase public safety throughout the world.”

The training has been ongoing, with more Korean officials returning to Camp Atterbury in January of 2012 to



learn more about the training program. Many others in Indiana will turn to Hardy for her expertise in K-9 Search and Rescue training, including the Indiana State Police,

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and the Johnson County Sheriff's Department.

The K-9 Search and Rescue program consists of structured classes of varying levels and disciplines from basic foundation training to advanced skills. The IDHS Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center also offers workshops, individual instruction and opportunities for search organizations to utilize training areas at the center.

For more information about the K-9 Search and Rescue Training Program, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2651.htm>.

## INDIANA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MEMORIAL TEAM SEEKING APPLICANTS

The Indiana Local Assistance State Team (LAST) is a fully-trained, comprehensive memorial team created to provide assistance and comfort to the family and department after a firefighter or emergency service personnel line-of-duty death. The team is seeking applicants who are interested in joining and assisting in the funeral planning, rendering of formal honors, and filing for federal,



state and local benefits that may be available after a line-of-duty death.

Not to be confused with an honor guard, Indiana LAST does not replace these entities; rather, they work with honor guards in the

coordination of funerals and other ceremonies based on the wishes of the family and agency.

Applicants must commit to attending one team training session every quarter -- including one weekend training session per year. They must be further prepared and able to respond to team deployments from three to seven days in length. Additionally, applicants must be active or retired from fire, EMS, or other emergency services.

For more information about Indiana LAST, please contact Eric Johnson at [EricJohnson@SupportingHeroes.org](mailto:EricJohnson@SupportingHeroes.org).

## FEMA ANNOUNCES NEW ONLINE INITIATIVE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Anyone has experienced a disaster firsthand can attest to the fact that disasters are local. The men and women responding and recovering to these disasters are neighbors, friends, and family members, often with a personal connection to the individuals affected. To properly prepare, respond, and recover, we need more than just the efforts of emergency responders; we need the efforts of the entire community.

The reason for this is efficiency. We know that local emergency responders know their community best and are able to provide assistance better than someone who is unfamiliar with the affected area. In this light, we also know that some of the best ideas come from

those who directly deal with disasters. Sometimes, people view government hierarchies as a limit to communication, but this should not be the case.

In an effort to increase communication at all levels of emergency management, FEMA has developed a think tank where anyone can share their ideas to engage partners, promote innovation, and facilitate discussions in the field of emergency management. Participation in the FEMA think tank is open to anyone by visiting [www.fema.gov/thinktank](http://www.fema.gov/thinktank) or using the hashtag #femathinktank on Twitter.

The Indiana Department of

Homeland Security continuously works to connect with citizens and public safety professionals who have firsthand experience responding and recovering from disasters in a variety of means. The input and suggestions provided help to improve the quality of emergency management and how IDHS can best serve Hoosier communities.

This is just the first step of increasing our lines of communication to the public safety community and the general public. We hope that by increasing communication, we will be able to work together to improve the ability to prepare, respond, and recover from any type of disaster in the Hoosier state. ■

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CERTIFICATIONS RECEIVE A FACELIFT

Recently, an overhaul of the Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Technician certifications was conducted by a diverse committee of fire service members from departments of all sizes in both the career and volunteer ranks. Only individuals who are active in teaching requirements for certifications and those certified as a Hazardous Materials Technicians are able to sit on the committee.

The reason for the change was to bring the certifications in line with the latest version of NFPA 472 and improve the quality of the programs. All of the major publishers had new editions of the Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations levels, but the committee decided to use the Jones and Bartlett manual for these changes. This publication was chosen because it met the standard, was more condensed than the others, and came with a test bank

that could be validated. The new Hazardous Materials Technician level publications are due out in June 2012 and will be reviewed at that time.

The goal of the committee was to make the certifications focus on skills and use cognitive material as a supplement to the skills required. Additionally, they wanted the written examination to be comprised mainly of operational type or “need-to-know” questions. Instead of asking questions asking specifics about regulations, they wanted questions that were focused on recognition and identification of materials or required the student to make operational decisions. It was determined that these types of



questions were more relevant to the certifications. There will still be questions that pertain to the regulations since it is part of the standard, but the majority of questions will come from more relevant topics.

The biggest change recommended by the committee was to have a final skills examination that mimics the Firefighter I/II final skills examination. Under the new system, all of the individual skills remained the same and will be covered during the training. At the end of the course, prior the written exam, students would sit for a final practical exam. They will be broken into teams of four and given a scenario that will cover a group of individual

[\(continued on page 6\)](#)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES LISTED ON THE IDHS ONLINE CALENDAR

Providing training opportunities to emergency responders throughout Indiana is a priority for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). These courses are listed on the IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar which is continuously updated as new courses become available.

### Preparedness & Response to Food and Agricultural Incidents MGT-322

Lafayette Fire Training Center  
2070 South 500 East  
Lafayette, IN 47909  
March 6-7, 2012 8:00am—5:00pm

This course provides participants with the skills they need to prepare for and respond to an agricultural

terrorist attack on their area's food supply. Participants are trained to identify and recruit those in their neighborhood whose daily activities place them in a unique position to identify potential threats to the cultivation, production, processing, transportation, or distribution of the Nation's food supply. Participants will develop an incident response plan for their area and learn to identify and obtain Federal, state, county/parish, or municipal resources that can protect the agricultural resources of the United States.

### Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

NE Public Safety Academy  
Room 2200  
7602 Patriot Crossing  
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

March 27-29 2012 8:00am—5:00pm  
PREREQUISITES:

IS-120.a An Introduction to Exercises  
<http://training.fema.gov/Apply/>

HSEEP is a capabilities based exercise program that includes a cycle, mix, and range of exercise activities of varying degrees of complexity and interaction. The purpose of HSEEP is to build self-sustaining exercise programs and provide a standardized methodology for designing, developing, conducting and evaluating all exercises.

To access this calendar visit the IDHS Training Division webpage and click the Consolidated Training Calendar link at [www.in.gov/dhs/tngbranch.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/tngbranch.htm).

## MIXTURE OF HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS POSES SIGNIFICANT RISK TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Emergency responders are often asked to enter dangerous situations with little notice. However, a method of suicide in which commonly found household chemicals are mixed together to produce hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic gas, which can create a very dangerous environment for emergency responders.

While very common in Japan, this “detergent suicide” is gaining popularity in the United States, with more than 70 cases reported in recent years. By mixing certain toilet cleaners and bath powders, a poisonous gas is emitted which kills nearly everyone who attempts this form of suicide. The gas can spread quickly and contaminate a large area, causing many to be very sick from inhalation.

Emergency responders can easily be

exposed to this gas when responding to the scene; of the “detergent suicide” cases reported in the United States, 80% resulted in injuries to

emergency responders or bystanders. The colorless gas is often described to have an odor of rotten eggs. However, hydrogen sulfide can bond with other molecules causing it to not produce the unpleasant odor.

The effects of hydrogen sulfide vary depending on the level of exposure to the chemical. At high concentrations, sudden death can occur quickly while lower concentrations can cause irritation to the skin, eyes, mucous membranes, and respiratory tract. In some



instances, respiratory effects may be present for up to 72 hours after exposure.

Emergency responders should be aware of the risk involved with

hydrogen sulfide exposure and should not enter a contaminated area without proper respiratory equipment and training. This “detergent suicide” poses a significant risk to emergency responders and nearby individuals. Being aware of the risk is the first step in reducing the exposure and potential injury to Hoosier emergency responders. ▪

## NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR NVFC AWARDS

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is now accepting nominations for the NVFC Lifetime Achievement Award and the Fire Prevention Award. Nominations for outstanding volunteer firefighters are due by March 1, 2012.



The NVFC Lifetime Achievement Award honors a volunteer firefighter with at least 20 years of service who has made a major contribution or achieved significant accomplishments at the local, state, or national level.

The Fire Prevention Award, sponsored by First Alert, honors a volunteer firefighter for remarkable efforts made in the area of fire prevention. Nominees must have made a major contribution or played a key role in a significant accomplishment in the field of fire prevention, demonstrated innovation in establishing and enacting goals and/or obtaining funding for the protection of the public through fire prevention and life safety programs,

and have demonstrated success in the area of fire prevention.

Additionally, applications are being received for the Junior Firefighter of the Year Award and the Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Award. Both awards recognize the extraordinary dedication and achievements of a junior firefighter and local junior firefighter program. The deadline to nominate for these awards is February 15.

For more information about the awards, visit [www.nvfc.org/about-us/awards](http://www.nvfc.org/about-us/awards).

## INDIANA STATE TROOPERS AND OFF-DUTY EMT SAVE LIFE

On December 17, just before 9:00 p.m., Indiana State Trooper Kyle Stovall noticed a stopped vehicle along the side of U.S. 50 in Lawrenceburg. The vehicle had not been in an accident, but the driver was slumped inside with the doors locked. After not receiving any response from the driver, Trooper Stovall broke a window of the vehicle to unlock the doors and reach the victim who had

no pulse and was not breathing.

With the assistance of Troopers Cameron McCreary, Brian Earls, and Brent Miller, as well as off-duty Lawrenceburg Emergency Medical Technician Casey Nanz, the victim was removed from the vehicle where Nanz began performing CPR. Using an automated external defibrillator (AED), Nanz administered shocks to

help the victim regain a pulse and begin breathing on his own. The 71 year old victim was then transported by Lawrenceburg EMS to the Dearborn County Hospital, where he was later transferred to University Hospital in Cincinnati. Due to the quick response of the State Troopers and the off-duty Lawrenceburg EMT, the victim's life was saved. ■

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (continued)

skills. The students would then have to look up the chemical and determine initial actions and isolation distances using an Emergency Response Guidebook in order to perform product control skills and, possibly, emergency decontamination. This style adds realism to the practical examination.

The Indiana Fire Training System staff has received approval to conduct a series of Beta tests in hopes hope that it will be approved for certification exams across the state in the near future. The skills for the Technician level are also in the process of being rewritten. Students will be presented during a Technician

course with a scenario at the beginning of class, progressing through the scenario as they complete each chapter of the book. They will run through the incident from recognition and identification through incident termination. The final skills exam will be a scenario that is performed from start to finish conducted entirely by the students. These skills learned through the course will help prepare students for the final exam and for real life emergencies.

It is important to note that the current written and skills are the same as they have been for the last few years. The changes mentioned

above are in the testing phase are not fully implemented for the certifications. We will keep everyone updated to ensure they have ample time to obtain new materials before the change takes effect. Also, IDHS and the Indiana Fire Training System will conduct webinars, send out bulletins, and post information on the website in order to help prepare instructors for the new changes.

Committee members were as follows; Gary Brandt, Rick Bourdon, Paul Colvin, Russell Feuquay, David Allison, Jess Roberts, Fred Schwomeyer, Jim Campbell, Stan Capobianco, and Larry Hamby. ■

## BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS TURN TO TWITTER FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Officials in Bartholomew County have turned to the social media site Twitter to keep residents safer and more informed about the emergency response in their county. The account, which can be followed at [www.twitter.com/bceoc](http://www.twitter.com/bceoc), will provide basic information about emergencies, traffic hazards, and other public safety issues.



may be impacted to allow them to make changes to their commute. ▪

Active since early December, Bartholomew County officials hope this information will allow citizens to be more aware about potential hazards in the area and where traffic

## INDIANA EMS TARGETED FOR FRAUD

A member of Indiana's Emergency Medical Service community was recently the target of fraud by an individual claiming to be a representative of Equifax. The fraudulent request came via a fax which asked for authorization to obtain financial information about the agency. The fax claimed that a request came from Medicare and authorization was required to ensure the agency would continue receiving Medicare and other federal funding.

After signing and returning the document via fax, a call from the agency's bank informed the agency that there was an attempt to transfer several thousand dollars to a bank account located in Russia. The bank was suspicious of the transfer and was able to

block the transaction. The individual had used the signature provided on the faxed document claiming to be from Equifax to authorize the transfer.

The agency notified the appropriate authorities of the situation and wanted to make sure that other EMS agencies did not fall victim to this, or other similar fraud attempts. ▪



## Indiana Department of Homeland Security



Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

302 West Washington Street  
Indiana Government Center South  
Room E208  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317.232.3980 or 800.669.7362



The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information Office at 317.234.4214 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).